sion of AIR network in the country; if so, whether this will be both in terms of quantity and quality?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): Yes, Sir.

**Steps to remove unemployment**

1801. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable increase in the number of educated unemployed persons in the country, and if so, State-wise break up as on 31st October, 1988;

(b) whether any new steps, has been taken by Government to remove unemployment from the country; and

(c) funds, if any, allocated for this purpose by Government?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) to (c) According to the Seventh Plan Document, unemployment among the educated manpower (which includes matriculates, graduates and above) was estimated to be 3.7 million as at the beginning of 1985. No further information is available. The policies and programmes/schemes on employment generation are also given in the same docuation is available. The policies and progrstage.

**Storage of edible oils**

1802. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that edible oils are not being stored in the country in the warehouses;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to store imported and indigenous edible oils to meet the demands of deficit States; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Trading Corporation has been keeping about 2 lakh tonnes of imported edible oils physically available at all times for the Public Distribution System. This is a buffer stock besides oils in the pipeline which arrive at regular intervals. These stocks of oils are kept at various Depots of the STC throughout the country.

**Loss of foodgrains due to heavy rains/floods**

1803. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains damaged due to heavy rains/floods for want of proper storage or otherwise during the period from 1st January to 31st October, 1988;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains damaged/lost in transit during the same period alongwith value thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to minimise such losses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India, the main public agency handling Government stocks, finalizes its accounts for damages/losses annually. However, according to provisional figures, 21,000 tones of foodgrains got damaged with FCI during the period from January, 1988 to September, 1988 during storage, transportation and multiple handling due to factors beyond human control such as rains, floods, cyclones, etc.

(c) The steps taken to minimise losses/damages consist of storage of foodgrains in damp proof and rodent proof godowns

to the extent possible, periodical inspection of stocks and undertaking timely disinfestation measures for pest control by qualified and trained staff. In case of cover and plinth storage special measures such as use of proper dunnage, covering, lashing and proper aeration are adopted. In addition, steps have been taken for augmentation of covered storage capacity, 10 per cent weighment at all points of handling to the extent possible, installation of weigh-bridges, strict quality control at the time of purchase, reduction in quantum of filling, introduction of machine stitching, avoidance of loading in open wagons to the extent possible, effective supervision and surprise checks and tightening of security measures.

**Progress of land reforms**

1804. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise progress of land reforms till date;

(b) whether it is a fact that some States are going ahead of others in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in some States distribution of vested land among the landless has virtually stopped; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b) Inter-State comparisons of the implementation of land reforms are rendered difficult due to diversity and variations obtaining from State to State regarding the agrarian structure, legislative provisions and administrative system for implementation of land reforms. However, in the context of their own situation some States may show better results in some aspects of land reforms than in others.

As a result of the abolition of intermediary tenures which prevailed over nearly 40 per cent of the area of the country, more than 20 million tenants have been brought in direct contact with the State. Besides, this of an estimated 6 million hectares of waste, fallow and other classes of land vested in the State, a large proportion has been distributed to landless and marginal holders. A few intermediary tenures still remain to be abolished in some States like jotedarise in Meghalaya, some intermediarise of non-agricultural character situated in urban areas of Uttar Pradesh and communidades in Goa. Under tenancy reforms, legislative provisions for security of tenure, protection against evictions and regulation of rent have been made in most States, while in some States laws have been enacted for conferment of ownership rights on tenants The States where ownership rights have been given to the general body of tenants through one measure or the other are Andhra Pradesh (Telangana Area), Assam, Bihar, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. As a result of these, an estimated 7.72 million tenants have acquired ownership of about 5.6 million hectares. Through Operation Barga in West Bengal, over 13 lakh bargadars (share-croppers) have been brought on record. This step would provide them legal protection against eviction and enable them to obtain developmental assistance.

In the implementation of land ceiling laws, variations exist in the legislative provisions regarding levels of ceilings, units of application, and exemptions granted under the ceiling laws etc. in different States. There are no ceiling laws in Meghalaya Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim and Mizoram and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Daman and Diu, Chandigarh and Lakshadweep. As a result of the imposition of ceilings, 73.48 lakh acres of land has so far been declared surplus of which 44.92 lakh acres has been distributed to 41.52 lakh beneficiaries. State-